

X/13 C/S - AGA KHAN - SO FAR ONLY 2,000 CSSR REFUGEES

STOCKHOLM, SEPT 9 -- (RFE SPECIAL/HENRY) -- THE U.N. HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, PRINCE SADRUDDIN AGA KHAN, TODAY SAID THAT ONLY 2,000 CZECHOSLOVAKS HAD APPLIED FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM, SINCE THE OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA, TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIS GLOBAL ORGANIZATION.

AT A NEWS CONFERENCE HERE DURING HIS GOODWILL SWING THROUGH SCANDINAVIA, PRINCE SADRUDDIN SAID "OUR OFFICES IN AUSTRIA AND GERMANY HAVE BEEN CLOSELY FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS, AS WE HAVE IN GENEVA (HEADQUARTERS). TO DATE, THERE HAS NOT BEEN A MASSIVE REQUEST ON THE PART OF THOSE CZECHS WHO ARE OUTSIDE THEIR COUNTRY FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM."

HE SAID THE GREAT MAJORITY OF CZECHOSLOVAKS OUTSIDE THEIR COUNTRY HAVE TOURIST OR EXTENDED TOURIST STATUS, AND THEIR FUTURE STATUS IS UNDETERMINED.

HE NOTED THAT THE CZECHOSLOVAK SITUATION "HAS NOT BROUGHT ABOUT ANY EMERGENCY SITUATION -- NOT YET -- AND WE HOPE THAT IT WILL NOT. I THINK THOSE PEOPLE WHO FOR THE TIME BEING CHOOSE TO REMAIN OUTSIDE WILL BE VERY WARMLY WELCOMED BY THE GOVERNMENTS AND THE PEOPLES OF THE COUNTRIES WHERE THEY NOW FIND THEMSELVES."

THE YOUNG AGA KHAN NOTED THAT THE ROUGHLY FIVE MILLION DOLLARS A YEAR HIS U.N. REFUGEE AGENCY SPENDS COMES FROM GOVERNMENT GRANTS (60 PERCENT) AND PRIVATE DONATIONS (40 PERCENT). OF THE CONTRIBUTING GOVERNMENTS, HE SAID, YUGOSLAVIA IS THE ONLY EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRY.

PRINCE SADRUDDIN NOTED HOWEVER THAT "OTHER EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES LEND AT LEAST MORAL SUPPORT IN THE U.N." AND HE SAID THAT THROUGH NATIONAL RED CROSS AGENCIES, CZECHOSLOVAK, POLISH AND OTHER EAST EUROPEAN NATIONALITY DOCTORS HAVE WORKED WITH REFUGEES AT CAMPS AND IN RE-SETTLED AREAS.

IN OTHER POINTS, THE U.N. REFUGEE HIGH COMMISSIONER NOTED THAT THERE HAS NOT BEEN A SINGLE GREEK POLITICAL REFUGEE COME TO THE ATTENTION OF HIS ORGANIZATION SINCE THE MILITARY COUP IN GREECE IN APRIL, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE "NUMEROUS GREEKS" WORKING IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES UNDER "HUMANITARIAN ASYLUM OR TEMPORARY RESIDENCE" ARRANGEMENTS.

HE SAID THERE IS NO SIGNIFICANT IBO TRIBE REFUGEE PROBLEM ANTICIPATED IN CONNECTION WITH THE NIGERIAN CIVIL WAR, AND HE STRESSED THAT HIS ORGANIZATION IS DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO THE REFUGEE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE SCANDINAVIANS, AND ESPECIALLY THE SWEDES, WHOM HE SAID ARE NEARLY UNEQUALLED IN THE SIZE OF THEIR REFUGEE EFFORTS. HE SAID SWEDEN HAD SPENT 300,000 DOLLARS THIS YEAR AND PLEDGED TWICE THAT AMOUNT NEXT YEAR TO HIS ORGANIZATION, PUTTING SWEDEN ON A PAR WITH THE U.S. GOVERNMENT PLEDGE.

BG/EE

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